

WYTSCHAETE IN HANDS OF BRITISH

Germans Are Driven Back Half Way To Bailleul

GEN. MAURICE GIVES OUT ANNOUNCEMENT OF GAINS ON NORTH FRONT

Chief Director of Military Operations at War Office Reports That Probably All of Wyt-schaete Has Been Captured by English Troops.

Counter-Attacking at Meteren Successfully, the Allies Drive Teutons Half Way Back to Bailleul — Lines Advanced and Improved Toward Neuve Eglise.

London, April 17.—The greater part of Wyt-schaete, and probably all of it, is in the hands of the British, Maj.-Gen. F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office announced today.

Counter-attacking successfully at Meteren and south of that place the British have driven back the Germans half way to Bailleul. They have advanced and improved their lines in the direction of Neuve Eglise.

"The news last night and today is better," says Gen. Maurice. "While I am not able to say definitely that Wyt-schaete is entirely in our hands, we hold the greater part and probably the whole of it."

"As mentioned in Field Marshal Haig's communique, we made a withdrawal to a new line in the Ypres salient. The withdrawal was decided upon on Sunday. It was carried out partly on Sunday night, and completed on Monday. It is a regrettable military necessity which forces us to give up ground which we won at such heavy cost. On Tuesday the Germans were still shelling the trenches which we had left the day before."

"I returned last night from France," said Gen. Maurice at the outset of his talk with the Associated Press. "The situation yesterday was very anxious. The Germans had taken Bailleul, Meteren and Wyt-schaete and had brought four fresh divisions into action against us. If the enemy could have maintained that pressure there looked to be vital danger to the ridge of heights which includes Mount Kemmel, and which is the backbone of our defense on the northern portion of the battle front."

METEREN RESTORED TO BRITISH; COUNTER-BLOW AT WYTSCHAETE SUCCEEDS

London, April 17.—The British have recaptured Meteren, on the northern battle front, by a counter-attack, it is announced officially.

The British positions before Ypres have been withdrawn to a new line.

South of Arras the Germans were driven out of British trenches into which they had forced their way. Early this morning the German artillery became more active south of the Somme.

The British made a successful counter-attack in the neighborhood of Wyt-schaete. Repeated German attacks north of Bailleul were repulsed, the Germans suffering heavy losses.

The statement follows: "Yesterday evening we delivered a successful counter-attack in the neighborhood of Wyt-schaete. At Meteren also our counter-attack restored the situation and the village remains in our hands. Throughout the afternoon and evening yesterday repeated hostile attacks north of Bailleul were repulsed with loss to the enemy. Bodies of German infantry, advancing in close formation, were caught under the fire of our troops at short range and suffered heavy casualties. We secured a few prisoners."

"The enemy also endeavored to develop an attack yesterday afternoon east of Rebecq, following the bombardment already reported, but his advance was broken up by our artillery fire. In consequence of the progress made by the enemy on the Ypres front our troops, holding our forward positions east of Ypres, have been withdrawn to a new line. The withdrawal was carried out deliberately, without interference by the enemy. Yesterday drove him back."

Shelling Vigorously. London, Tuesday, April 16.—According to a Reuters telegram from British headquarters in France, the Germans are making vigorous attacks in the direction of Meteren, but the position in that neighborhood is obscure. From Labasse to Rebecq the enemy is shelling the British lines vigorously. At Bailleul, south of Arras, the enemy attacked this morning and penetrated the British line. The British line was carried out deliberately, without interference by the enemy. Yesterday drove him back."

THE WARNING



BARON BURIAN TO FOLLOW CZERNIN

Austrian and German Press Appears Profoundly Impressed by Downfall of Minister.

Amsterdam, April 17.—Baron Burian has been appointed Austro-Hungarian foreign minister in succession to Count Czernin, according to a Vienna dispatch.

Baron Burian in taking the foreign ministry retains his portfolio as minister of finance.

Baron Stephan Burian von Rajecz was minister of foreign affairs from Sept. 15, 1914, to Dec. 23, 1916, when he was succeeded by Count Czernin, whose place he now takes.

Baron Burian has been Austro-Hungarian finance minister since Count Czernin has been in the foreign office. Baron Burian took the place of Count Berchtold as foreign minister in 1914 and was the author of the notes to the United States on the case of the Italian steamship Ancona, which was sunk in the Mediterranean with the loss of American lives in the fall of 1915.

Profound Impression. Basel, Switzerland, April 17.—The tone of the Austrian and German press indicates that a profound impression has been caused in those countries by the downfall of Count Czernin.

The German people and the German element in Austria resent the retirement of the minister and after his resignation was announced began a vigorous campaign for the appointment as successor of former Premier Tusa, Count Andrusky, or another Hungarian whose views agree with theirs.

The Mitteleuropäische Zeitung of Vienna says Count Czernin's fall was due in part to lack of agreement with the emperor in regard to Poland and his attack on the Czechs.

The same elements which deplore the fall of Count Czernin are beginning to attack the German foreign minister, Dr. Von Kuehlmann, on the pretext that he did not protect Germany's economic interests sufficiently in the treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

Thirty-seven Lives Lost

When American and British Steamers Collide, Home-Coming Crew Reports.

An Atlantic Port, April 17.—Thirty-seven lives were lost when the American steamship O. B. Jennings and the British steamer War Knight, both laden with naphtha and inflammable oils, collided off the British coast March 24, according to members of the crew of the O. B. Jennings, who arrived here today.

All who perished, with one exception, were on the British vessel. They were burned to death by blazing gas and oil.

Those who survived the flames on the War Knight were rescued in the nick of time by destroyers, for soon after, while the blazing hull was being towed toward shallow water, it struck a mine and was blown up.

The destroyers went to the rescue through a field of blazing oil and took off also the crew of the Jennings. A number of the crew of the American ship, however, were badly burned and had to be removed to hospitals after being landed.

Dispatch From Paris Reports Germans Have Advanced as Far as St. Eloi.

London, April 17.—According to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Paris, the Germans have advanced from Wyt-schaete as far as St. Eloi and also have a grip on the southern slopes of Mount Kemmel.

SPANISH VESSEL LOUISIA TORPEDOED

Madrid, April 17.—Owners of the Spanish vessel Louisa have informed the government that the ship has been torpedoed. Three of the crew were lost.

COLD DAMAGED COTTON Low Temperatures in South Hurt Crop.

Washington, April 17.—Cotton was hurt by low temperatures during the week ending yesterday, the national weather and crop bulletin today announced.

"The unusually cold weather that prevailed in the southern states was detrimental to cotton," says the review. Considerable was killed by frost from Texas eastward to western Georgia, and much replanting will be necessary. Planting was in progress as far north as southern Oklahoma and Tennessee. The early planting has a poor stand generally in Texas. The stand continues generally excellent in Georgia and the plants are germinating on the lower coastal plain in South Carolina. Little or no rain fell in the cotton belt, except in central and northern Texas, Oklahoma and portions of Arkansas."

U. S. SOLDIER HAS MADE GOOD

Secretary Baker Says Big Thing for America Is to Support War in Every Way.

Washington, April 17.—Secretary Baker's observations in Europe were laid before President Wilson early today. The secretary went to the White House at 10 o'clock and remained for a lengthy conference.

Just back from a seven weeks' trip to the western battle fronts and to the entente capitals, the secretary reported not only on the military situation, but political conditions as well.

The American soldier has made good in France, Secretary Baker today assured newspaper men who met him at the war department. The French and British authorities are uniform in their praise of the courage, endurance and soldierly qualities of our men.

"The big thing for America to do is to support the war, support it financially and with firm belief," the secretary said. "The right arm of America is in France. It is bared and ready to strike. The rest of the body is here in the United States and it must support the arm. This support should include subscriptions to liberty loans as well as moral support of high confidence."

Troops in High Spirits. The condition of the American troops, the secretary said, is excellent. They are all well physically and "well in every other way." Their spirits are high, their behavior admirable, and their relations with the French and British cordial and sympathetic, he said.

"One rarely meets an American soldier in France who does not hail and wave his hat," Mr. Baker said. "The only sad Americans there are those who fear they may have to come home before the job is done."

Got What He Went After. "The information I went to get, I got," Mr. Baker said. He said, he would bring closer and more understanding co-operation between the war department and the army. As for the secretary himself, he feels that he is "now equipped with the means of judging and appreciating the kind of co-operation needed."

The impression one gets in France is one of determination, confidence and enthusiasm, said Mr. Baker.

"The American, British and French armies are filled with this tremendous spirit and the civilian populations are the same feeling," he said. "Every one is quite determined to see the job through and quite confident of the outcome."

Like Gigantic Bee Hive. "So far as the work of our own forces is concerned, it gives one the impression of magnitude, thoroughness and speedy accomplishment. No hours of

FLANDERS BATTLE GOING MORE IN FAVOR BRITISH, SAYS REUTERS REPORT

Correspondent at Army Headquarters in France Declares Terrific Fire Now in Progress Exceeds Any Heard in His Three Years' Experience in War Zone.

Germans Have Gained No Further Ground Since Tuesday Morning and Apparently Have Lost Some, Notwithstanding Hard Fighting—British Recapture Ground.

London, April 17.—The battle in Flanders is raging today with incredible intensity, telegraphs the correspondent of Reuters, Limited, at the British army headquarters in France. As far as the latest reports enable the correspondent to judge the battle is going in favor of the British.

Notwithstanding the desperate attacks of the Germans they have gained no further ground since Tuesday morning and apparently they have lost some.

During his three years' experience in the war zone, the correspondent says, he never has heard such terrific and unintermittent general fire as has gone on since Tuesday afternoon and when he filed his dispatch this morning.

Disaster at Zillebeke. London, April 17.—The British at dusk on Tuesday, says a dispatch from the British headquarters in France, were advancing in the neighborhood of Wyt-schaete, south of Ypres, and were repulsed again to be holding the ground which they had lost there.

Among the numerous enemy attacks Tuesday afternoon and evening on the northern front in Flanders one in great force in the Zillebeke sector was disastrous for the Germans, whose masses were shot down at close range.

They apparently were obliterated and then the British guns got on their flank, the correspondent says, and the slaughter was appalling.

Question of Swollen Fortunes Overcome

SUPPLEMENTARY DRAFT CALLS ISSUED BY CROWDER

Over 5,000 Men Wanted for Signal and Engineer Corps. 200 Tennesseans Called.

Washington, April 17.—A supplementary draft call for 5,610 men for the signal and engineer corps to report between May 1 and 9 was issued today by Provost Marshal General Crowder. The order provided that 330 of the men shall report at Fort Wayne, Mich., 230 at Camp Sevier, S. C., 1,144 at Fort Sheridan, Ill., 2,550 at Camp McArthur, Tex., and 830 at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. Those who will report at Fort Wayne are negroes.

For the Fort Wayne contingent, Virginia will furnish 100, North Carolina, 200, Kentucky, 150, Maine, 40, Vermont, 2, for Camp Sevier, South Carolina, 150, Florida, 100, for Fort Sheridan, Tennessee will furnish 200, Georgia, 100, Mississippi, 100, Alabama, 200, for Camp McArthur, Texas will furnish 1,000, Oklahoma, 200, Arkansas, 500, Louisiana, 500, for Fort Benjamin Harrison, Kentucky, 250, Indiana, 500.

Willard-Fulton Fight In St. Paul Arena

Minneapolis, Minn., April 17.—Jesse Willard-Fred Fulton world's heavyweight boxing championship scheduled for July 4, will be staged in an arena to be erected in the midway district between St. Paul and Minneapolis, according to an announcement made here today.

London Disappointed At Withdrawal at Ypres

London, April 17.—Although the official report from the battle front this morning does not record any further German advance and, has several encouraging features, the public here learned with disappointment of the withdrawal of the troops holding the forward positions to the eastward of Ypres. The Ypres salient has long stood in popular imagination as a monument to British valor, and dogged tenacity in the face of repeated and almost overwhelming onslaughts of the enemy. Nothing is known as to the extent of the withdrawal in this region or the position of the new line, mentioned by Field Marshal Haig.

Representative Jones, Of Virginia, Succumbs

Washington, April 17.—Representative Jones, of Virginia, died here today from the effects of a stroke of paralysis suffered more than a week ago.

Greenville Business District Has Fire

Greenville, S. C., April 17.—Fire of unknown origin destroyed Armstrong's pharmacy, Wharton's dry goods store and Deasouber's art studio early this morning, entailing an estimated damage of \$10,000, practically covered by insurance.